

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANA 00919 180535Z

13
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 MC-02 EB-07 /053 W

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R 171400Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7614
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T SANA 0919

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MARR, SA, YE
SUBJ: SAUDI/YEMENI COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON ARMS

REF: STATE 063155

1. DURING MY MY MARCH 17 CALL ON PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI (SEE SEPTELS FOR OTHER SUBJECTS COVERED) I RAISED SUGGESTION MADE PARA 8 REFTEL RE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AT WORKING LEVELS SAUDI/YEMENI COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON MODERNIZATION OF YEMENI ARMY. AL-HAMDI REPLIED THIS IS EXCELLENT IDEA BUT PREFERRED THAT THE SUGGESTION BE MADE BY THE USG TO SAUDIS RATHER THAN HAVING IT COME FROM YEMENI SIDE. HE OPINED SAUDIS WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO CONSIDER IT FAVORABLY IF IT WERE MADE BY A "DISINTERESTED FRIEND" LIKE THE US.

2. COMMENT: GIVEN AL-HAMDI'S POSITIVE RESPONSE, I THINK IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA IF THE SUGGESTION IS NOW MADE TO THE SAUDIS AND PARTICULARLY BEFORE SULTAN'S TRIP TO SANA. AL-HAMDI'S WISH FOR USG TRANSMITTAL OF THIS SUGGESTION SHOWS HOW FAR WE STILL HAVE TO GO TO GET THESE TWO ARAB BROTHERS TO TALK TO ONE ANOTHER DIRECTLY.
SCOTES

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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